

REMARKS

In an Office action dated March 18, 2002, claims 6, 8, 18 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph because the claims recites the Windows NT operating system. In response Applicant has removed the references to the Windows NT operating system from the claims.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 7-9, 11, 13-19, 21-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Gase et al (U.S. Patent 5,580,177). In addition, claims 1-2, 4-6, 7, 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by White et al (U.S. Patent 6,301,012B1). Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to substantially incorporate the limitation of claim 2. The added limitation claims "waking an installed server print driver and alerting the server print driver of changes in configuration data to allow the print driver to convert the summarized data to an internal format". Applicant respectfully submits that neither reference shows or suggests the claimed limitation.

The Gase and White reference both disclose accessing the server print driver. The accessing process is described as installing the print driver, typically off another media such as a CD or hard drive. Applicant is not installing a print driver, because the print driver is already installed. Instead, Applicant claims "waking up" an already installed print driver, typically using a call on command or an interrupt, to cause the print driver to process the data. Neither the Gase reference nor the White reference discusses the problem of changing configuration data when the print driver is already installed. Thus Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the prior art.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 7 is allowable over the prior art references because neither prior art reference describes updating a client print driver by monitoring incoming print configuration data at the print server. In particular, claim 9 is not rendered obvious in view of the Gase reference because element 28 to 28' on the front page of the Gase reference which is used to

disallow claim 9 does not show a pipe server thread to transfer summarized printer data to the client device. Instead, the 28 to 28' connection is used to transfer administrative data. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Gase is insufficient to present a prima facie case of obviousness with respect to claim 9.

In addition claim 20 was held allowable. Applicant has amended independent claim 15 to include the limitations of claim 20 and any intervening dependent claims. Thus independent claim 15 is believed to be allowable.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, Applicant believes that independent claims 1, 7 and 15 are allowable over the cited prior art references. All other claims dependent on independent claims 1, 7 and 15 and thus are also believed to be allowable. Additional reasons for allowance have been provided with respect to dependent claim 9. Allowance of all pending claims at the Examiner's earliest convenience is hereby respectfully requested. In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, Applicant requests that Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (amended) A method of updating a print driver in a print server comprising the operations of:

gathering printer configuration data from a printer at a printer port;

monitoring the incoming printer configuration data for changes;

recognizing the changes in configuration data;

waking an installed server print driver and alerting the server print driver of changes in configuration data to allow the print driver to convert the summarized data to an internal format; and,

saving the changes in configuration data as summarized data in a spooler registry.

2. (deleted)

6. (amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the waking operation is executed by transmitting a print driver event API defined by a [Windows] computer Operating System.

8. (amended) The method of claim 7 wherein [a Windows NT] the client and server have the same operating system print spooling characteristics [directly retrieves summarized printer data from the print server registry].

15. (amended) A system to output printed documents comprising:

a printer to output convert electronic signals into a printed document, the printer having a configuration state that corresponds to a particular period in time;

a first client device that receives an input and transmits print signals to define a document to be printed on the printer, the first client including a local print registry that maintains the configuration states of the printer;

a second client device that receives a second input and transmits print signals to define a second document to be printed on the printer; [and]

a print server coupled to the first client device and the second client device, the print server including a print server registry that maintains the configuration states of the printer; and,

software running on the print server, the software including a first code section that periodically polls the printer and compares results from the poll to the server registry to determine changes in configuration states, the software further including a second code section that transmits the changes in configuration states to the first client device and the second client device.

18. (amended) The system of claim 15 wherein the print server runs software that conforms to [the Windows] a computer operating system [defined by Microsoft] and uses a pipe server thread that transfer the changes in configuration states from the printer to the client device.

21. (amended) The system of claim 15 wherein the print server operates a [Windows NT] first operating system and the second client device operates a [Windows] second operating system that uses the server print registry as a local registry.